Vacant Posts of Judges in Tamil Nadu

3323. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the existing number of posts of Judges that are lying vacant in Madras High Court, Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the number of pending cases in that High Court; and

(c) what steps have been taken to appoint judges and early disposal of pending cases'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) As on 1.5.97, there are 3 vacancies of permanent Judges in Madras High Court.

(b) As on 31.12.96, the number of pending cases in the Madras High Court was 3,10,640.

(c) Two new posts of permanent Judges and eight new post of Additonal Judges have been agreed to. The process of consultation among the concerned constitutional authorities for filling up the cxising vacancies as well as new posts is on.

Proposal to change the name of State Election Commissions

3324. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission of India has approached the Union Government to change the name of the State Election Commissions to clear the confusion in the minds of general public and in view of the flooding of complaints in regard to local elections held throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in amending the relevant provision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Preparation of Photo Identity Cards of Voters

3325. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the matter of preparing Photo Identity Cards of the voters in the country so far, State-wise;

(b) the names of the States where progress pertaining to preparation of Photo Identity Card is very slow or negligible;

(c) whether Government propose to fix a time-Limit for preparation of Photo Identity Cards in all the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) A statement showing the progress made by different State&UTs in descending order in the matter of preparing Photo Identity Cards enclosed as a statement (See below). It also shows very slow or negligible performance by some of the States.

(c) and (d) The Scheme of issue of Photo Identity Cards is an on-going scheme as electoral rolls keep on changing due to continuous feasible to fix a definite time frame.

Statement

Progess Report on the implementation of I. Cards Scheme (As on 28.2.1997)

Sl. No	State	Total Electorate as per Lok Sabha Election 96	Elector supplied with Defect-free I Card	
			No.	%
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Pondicherry	633635	554286	87.48
2.	Lakshadweep	34111	29612	86.81
3.	Sikkim	229160	197125	86.02
4.	Haryana	11152856	9314815	83.52
5.	A & N Islands	211226	1721010	81.43
6.	Gujarat	28529094	22922842	80.35
7.	Maharashtra	55254414	43650606	79.00
8.	Meghalaya	1092753	839778	76.85
9.	Manipur	1290990	984820	76.28
10.	Orissa	22419118	46586269	73.98
11.	Punjab	14489825	10341957	71.37
12.	West Bengal	45583054	31439143	68.97
13.	NCT of Delhi	8058941	5328000	66.11
14.	Himachal Pradesh	3536517	1132609	65.96
15.	Chandigarh	450599	293975	65.24
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	544440	351962	64.65
17.	Karnataka	31810069	19952383	62.72
18.	Daman & Diu	70202	41414	58.99
19.	Andhra Pradesh	49501274	28666748	57.91
20.	Goa	869093	487121	56.05
21.	Rajasthan	30388357	1687648	55.33
22.	Tripura	1647908	884671	53.68
23.	Madhya Pradesh	43927252	23477928	53.45
24.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	94909	50220	52.91
25.	Uttar Pradesh	100826305	47130(10 .	46.73
26.	Bihar	58438317	19967519	34.17
27.	Kerala	20673867	124914	0.60
28.	Assam	12587659	700H8	056
29.	Jammu & Kashmir*	4455709	0	0.00
30.	Mizoram	408094	0	0.00
31.	Nagaland	874518	0	0.00
32.	Tamil Nadu	42488022	0	0.00
	All India :	592572288	303051543	51.4

*In J&K 'the scheme is yet to be started.